

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

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EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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TAGS: PLAB

SUBJ: CFDT SECRETARY GENERAL MAIRE LECTURES WCL

1. SUMMARY: MAIRE OF CFDT OPENED 18TH CONGRESS OF
WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL) BY CALLING ON THAT BODY
TO BE READY TO DISSOLVE ITSELF IN ORDER TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL
TRADE UNION UNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING ON OPENING DAY OF 18TH CONGRESS OF WORLD
CONFEDERATION OF LABOR AT EVIAN, FRANCE ON 25 SEPTEMBER,
CFDT SECRETARY GENERAL EDMOND MAIRE SEVERELY CRITICIZED
WCL FOR FAILURE TO TRANSLATE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES INTO
ACTION. MAIRE ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT WCL ABILITY TO MEET
CHALLENGE OF INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM. BUT THE CFDT LEADER'S
HEAVIEST FIRE WAS CONCENTRATED ON WCL LACK OF GENUINE INTER-
NATIONAL STRATEGY.

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3. INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION POWER, ACCORDING TO MAIRE, LIES WITH CFTU IN INDUSTRIALIZED CAPITALIST COUNTRIES, WITH WFTU IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AND LARGELY WITH AUTONOMOUS CONFEDERATIONS IN THIRD WORLD. PRIORITY ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN WCL AND ICFTU. ICFTU, IN MAIRE'S VIEW, CAN BE A "USEFUL TOOL IN THE ANTI-CAPITALIST STRUGGLE". LIKEWISE, THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS, DESCRIBED AS DOMINATED BY THE ICFTU, ARE VALUABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH THE COUNTERPART GROUPS IN WCL SHOULD ADHERE

4. "WCL RELATIONS WITH WFTU ARE NECESSARY", SAID MAIRE, "ALTHOUGH GLOBALLY THE WFTU REMAINS THE POLITICAL INSTRUMENT OF THE SOVIET STATE, AND IS NOT A TRADE UNION GROUPING LIKE THE OTHERS". RELATIONS WITH WFTU WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY MANAGED. MAIRE DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN COMMON ACTION WITH NATIONAL CONFEDERATIONS (SUCH AS THE CGT AND CGIL) AND THE WFTU ITSELF WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, WILL HAVE TO CHANGE CONSIDERABLY TO PERMIT ANY PROSPECT OF UNITY. MAIRE CITED LACK OF INDEPENDENCE OF TRADE UNIONS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, THEIR FEEBLE TRADE UNION DEMANDS, AND LIMITATION OF RIGHT TO STRIKE AS RENDERING THEM STRANGERS TO "OUR TYPE OF TRADE UNIONISM". THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTINATIONAL FIRMS IN EASTERN EUROPE WILL, MAIRE WARNED, CAUSE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES. THERE, THE MULTINATIONALS WILL FIND "LABOR PEACE" AND IMMUNITY FROM COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

5. MAIRE CONCLUDED ADDRESS BY STRESSING "URGENCY OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE ORIENTATION AND STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONISM" - WHICH, IN CONTEXT OF SPEECH AS REPORTED HERE, WE INTERPRET AS CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR MOVEMENT FEATURING BROADEST POSSIBLE UNITY, ACTION-ORIENTED, WITH LESS EMPHASIS ON IDEOLOGY. MAIRE SAID THAT THE WCL CAN AND SHOULD PROMOTE UNITY BY ANNOUNCING ITS OWN READINESS TO DISAPPEAR AS A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION.

6. COMMENT: MAIRE'S FRANK CHARACTERIZATION OF WFTU AS TOOL OF SOVIET POLICY AND HIS PERTINENT COMMENT ON PROSPECT OF MULTINATIONAL REDOUBT IN EASTERN EUROPE SHOW CFDT LEADER AT HIS BEST. BUT REMARK ON ICFTU AS "USEFUL TOOL" IS EQUALLY FORTHRIGHT AND NOTEWORTHY. IMPLICIT IN MAIRE'S REMARKS IS THREAT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CFDT DISAFFILIATION FROM WCL SHOULD LATTER NOT ADOPT LINE HE URGES.

7. MAIRE TOLD LABATT THAT WCL CONGRESS PROGRAM CALLED FOR OPENING ADDRESS BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF HOST ORGANIZATION, BUT THAT HE (MAIRE) HAD WARNED WCL LEADERS THAT CFDT NOT INTERESTED IN CEREMONY, THAT SPEECH WOULD ADDRESS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES - AND MIGHT INCLUDE SOME UNPLEASANT TRUTHS. HE OFFERED

TO REFRAIN FROM SPEAKING IF WCL PREFERRED, BUT PROGRAM MAINTAINED AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. MAIRE SHOWED LABATT DRAFT OF SPEECH, STRESSING THAT, BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE, IT WAS TO BE REVIEWED BY CFDT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRIOR TO DELIVERY.
IRWIN

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